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S E C R E T STATE 181157

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CY
SUBJECT: SITUATION REPORT NO. 10: SITUATION IN CYPRUS AS OF 1500 EDT, AUGUST 18

1. MILITARY SITUATION ON CYPRUS: THE CEASEFIRE REMAINED SHAKY AND ULTIMATE TURKISH MILITARY GOALS UNCLEAR. FIGHTING WAS REPORTED SOUTH AND WEST OF NICOSIA, BUT THE U.N. REMAINS IN CONTROL OF THE AIRPORT. TURKISH UNITS WERE REPORTED TO BE ADVANCING NORTH OF LARNACA TOWARD THE NICOSIA-LIMASSOL ROAD. NONE WERE REPORTED TO HAVE [illegible]ED THE ROAD AND THE TURKISH EMBASSY IN NICOSIA EX[illegible]Y DENIED ANY INTENT

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TO CUT THE ROAD. THE WESTERN END OF THE ATTILA LINE WAS REPORTED TO BE QUIET.

2. CYPRUS: REUTERS REPORTS THAT PRESIDENT CLERIDES STATED PUBLICLY THAT THE TURKISH ARMY IS ATTEMPTING TO OCCUPY THE ENTIRE ISLAND. HE SAID MILITARY ACTION MAKES FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS IMPOSSIBLE. CLERIDES REPORTEDLY TOLD UN REPRESENTATIVE WECKMANN THAT GREEK CYPRIOTS DO NOT DESIRE NEGOTIATIONS AT PRESENT. THE CITY OF NICOSIA IS REPORTED TO BE FACING A SEVERE WATER SHORTAGE. THE TURKISH ARMY CONTROLS THE WATER SUPPLY.

3. GREECE: ON RHODES THE COMMANDER OF A US COAST GUARD FACILITY REPORTS A HIGH LEVEL OF ANTI-AMERICAN SENTIMENT. ONE AMERICAN CAR HAS BEEN FIREBOMBED. IN ATHENS, DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFFTBA LTAECA THAT MOVEMENT OF SOME TROOPS FROM ATHENS ON AUGUST 11 HAD SUCCESSFULLY FORESTALLED THE THREAT OF A MILITARY COUP. HE CLAIMED THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS NOW BEYOND DANGER. AVEROFF ALSO TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT A GREEK DIVISION STATIONED ON RHODES AND CRETE IS FULLY PREPARED TO MOVE TO CYPRUS. HOWEVER, SINCE THE BRITISH HAD COUNSELED AGAINST THIS MOVE AND REFUSED TO SUPPLY AIR COVER, THE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE NO DECISION ON MOVING THE TROOPS. THE DEFENSE MINISTER ADDED THAT HE DOES NOT THINK THE GREEK GOVERNMENT WILL RETURN TO THE CONFERENCE TABLE AND THAT THE DECISION TO WITHDRAW FROM NATO IS FIRM. HE INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE US MAY BE RESPECTED.

4. TURKEY: AFTER MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR MACOMBER, PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE TWO HAD CONFERRED ON THE LATEST POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND ON THE POSSIBILITY OF NEGOTIATIONS BEGINNING AGAIN. HE DENIED REPORTS THAT THE AMBASSADOR HAD BROUGHT HIM A MESSAGE. THE PRIME MINISTER SUBSEQUENTLY VISITED THE TURKISH CHIEF OF STAFF. FOLLOWING THE MEETING ECEVIT TOLD THE PRESS THAT TURKISH TROOPS WERE OBSERVING THE CEASEFIRE. HE IS SCHEDULED TO ADDRESS AN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON MONDAY. KISSINGER
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